

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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Legislative Counsel

OLC 78-2121/H

25 OCT 1978

Mr. J. Dexter Peach, Director
Energy and Minerals Division
General Accounting Office
Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Mr. Peach:

In response to your request, this confirms in writing information which has been relayed to you by a representative of this office concerning the classification of a report prepared by GAO entitled "Nuclear Diversion in the United States? Thirteen Years of Contradiction and Confusion." We are unable to react positively to your declassification request for a number of reasons. The principal reason is the requirement to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure, as was explained in Director of Central Intelligence Turner's 1 September 1978 letter to Mr. Staats. Another contributing factor is the often inextricable linkage between sections of the report. Finally, it is my understanding that you are aware of an ongoing Department of Justice investigation of this subject and we defer to the Department of Justice completely on the effect publication of the GAO report would have on this investigation.

In light of the above, I assume we have your assurance that the report will be appropriately marked to assure that it is handled in accordance with security requirements.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature Box]

for Frederick P. Hitz

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

- 1 - Mr. Shackley, AD/DCI/CT
- 1 - Mr. [Redacted] DDO/C/NE/ISR
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